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Among the Peace Organizations.

The Pacific Coast Director reports that his class in International Conciliation in the Summer School at the University of Southern California was one of the largest in the school. It was composed in the main of school teachers and principals, who did good, stiff work. Their interest grew deeper and deeper as the course proceeded according to the "Outline Study on World Peace," which Mr. Root had prepared for the class. Among the theses which each member of the class was required to submit, there were many excellent discussions of such topics as "The Value of the Hague Conferences," "War and Race Degeneracy," "The Interdependence of Nations," "Peace Work in the Schools and Colleges." Each student was required to read 1,000 pages of selected peace literature. Marked appreciation of the course was shown by the class on the last day of the Summer School, though they had previously intimated that their instructor was demanding the stiffest requirements of any in the university.

William C. Allen, president of the Northern California Peace Society, sailed on September 5 for an extended trip in Hawaii, Japan, and possibly Australia. He will devote much of his time to laboring in the interest of the peace cause. Large quantities of peace literature were sent beforehand for distribution, that the way might be open for his mission. He is accompanied by William B. Harvey, of Westtown, Pa. Before leaving a letter was received by the editor from Mr. Allen, from which the following extract is taken:

"It has occurred to me that probably the *ADVOCATE OF PEACE* might desire to inform its readers as to the sentiment in various parts of this country regarding the war in Europe. If so, I can make a very encouraging report. The frightful outbreak in Europe is much deplored by all classes around San Francisco. It has created intense excitement among our very mixed population. It is astonishing how such phases of the question as these have been spontaneously on every one's lips: That war is an awful curse and a shame to our civilization; that the big international concerns have by their methods created the fears that have precipitated the sudden recourse to arms. I think that in a community which always feels that it has a large pecuniary interest in militarism, or thinks it has, the war is a terrible object lesson as to the danger of cultivating the military spirit. Even the newspapers are very sober, and moralize in an unwonted manner."

The secretary of the Connecticut Peace Society, Prof. Curtis M. Geer, has issued a four-page leaflet entitled "The Present Duty of the Friends of Peace." It is an earnest appeal for neutrality in deed and thought, and its wide circulation ought to be of much value.

The Pennsylvania Arbitration and Peace Society has prepared a statement, "Nations Become Strong by War," in which they refute this popular platitude used to justify war, and argue that war drains the vitality of a nation, while armed peace is nearly as serious.

Among the resolutions passed by our branch societies regarding the President's offer of mediation and expressing the sentiment against the war in Europe are the following by the St. Paul branch of the Minnesota Peace Society, issued to the press on August 8:

"Whereas a large portion of the civilized world is now engaged in a great international war, we, the St. Paul sec-

tion of the American Peace Society, in executive session, deem it appropriate to issue the following resolutions and declaration:

"We are very sorely distressed to learn of the great disaster that has befallen the nations of Europe and the entire world in this conflict.

"We commend President Wilson for his tender of the good offices of the United States in mediation of the differences now involving the nations of Europe in war and hope his tender may be accepted and further hostilities averted.

"We commend Mayor Winn Powers, of St. Paul, for his peace-harmony declaration, published Tuesday, calling upon the former subjects of the belligerent nations to remember that as Americans we have common interests and should refrain from hostile criticism and rash judgments during these trying times.

"The present crisis gives new emphasis to the necessity for an international judicial tribunal to which all nations shall agree to submit their international disputes. The establishment of such a court with final jurisdiction would remove the excuse for armaments, and we believe disarmament is improbable until such time.

"The folly of maintaining military establishments has been demonstrated by recent events, as it is manifest that the preparation for war has been a chief factor in precipitating this struggle. Could the declaration of war have been delayed, the more deliberate judgment of the people would have prevailed in behalf of peace."

Mr. MacLeod, the secretary, writes that the churches and fraternal organizations in St. Paul are preparing to respond heartily to President Wilson's noble call that October 4th be devoted to an earnest plea for peace among the warring nations of Europe. "Dr. Cyrus Northrop, our most honored president, celebrates his eightieth birthday on September 30. He is truly the most loved man in Minnesota, and all the societies with which he has been connected, the press, and labor organizations have or are arranging to take cognizance of the event. . . . The subject of international peace has been the closest subject to his heart, and, despite his years, he has on all occasions, where it was at all appropriate, forcibly and lucidly expressed his sentiments thereon. His home has always been open for the meetings of our society."

An enthusiastic mass meeting was held under the auspices of the Cincinnati Arbitration and Peace Society on Sunday, September 6, in the Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati. R. A. Colter, vice-president of the chamber, presided, and G. W. Dubois, secretary of the Cincinnati Arbitration and Peace Society, acted as secretary. Among the speakers were Bishop Hartzell, Dean W. P. Rogers, Congressman Alfred G. Allen, and Herbert S. Bigelow. Strong resolutions were passed approving President Wilson's course urging an absolutely impartial attitude, and making this suggestion:

"Resolved, That we respectfully suggest the consideration of a further appropriate service toward the re-establishment of peaceful relations in Europe on a basis which shall prevent in future the mistaken national policies and the enormous armaments which have led to the present conflict, through extending an invitation to all the nations signatory to The Hague Convention not involved in the present war, and especially to the neutral nations of Europe, to unite with the United States in making, on the first favorable occasion, a joint offer of mediation in the interest of humanity, civilization, and lasting peace, in which all nations of the world are equally concerned."

On the initiative of Robert C. Root, the Church Federation of Los Angeles, Cal., sent out a call for prayer during the noon hour and for community prayers at the

evening prayer services in the Protestant churches on a special Wednesday in August. The Federation also sent, on August 4, a telegram to President Wilson asking him to do all in his power to secure peace in Europe. In issuing the call, Mr. Root said:

"We are asking all people who believe in humanity to join in this great petition, and we ask all, regardless of creed and color, to offer prayer for divine guidance in this momentous hour in the world's history, to pray to the great God of peace to avert war, and to turn men back to the better way of peace."

The Church Peace Union has issued a timely volume of 152 pages by Dr. Frederick Lynch, entitled "Through Europe on the Eve of the War," containing the record of his personal experiences and those of the delegates to the Church Peace Conference at Constance. It contains the only official account of the conference, and gives in appendices the list of delegates, the declaration of the American delegates, addresses by Dr. Sidney L. Gulick, Dr. Chas. S. MacFarland, and other documents of value. The book may be obtained free of charge through this office, or by addressing the Church Peace Union, 70 Fifth avenue, New York.

THE DUTY OF PACIFISTS IN THE PRESENT CRISIS.

Strong appeals have been issued by British pacifists declaring anew their position and urging the lovers of peace to do all in their power to influence the people and the government to restore peace speedily. Among those which have been received here are an especially excellent message from the religious Society of Friends, one from the National Peace Council, and also the Peace Society of London. The following statement has been sent out by the secretaries of four of the leading British peace organizations:

The present resort by the powers of Europe to the fratricidal arbitrament of war is a lapse in civilization against which the pacifists in all nations must protest with an utter detestation. But this is not the time to discuss and apportion responsibility for the inhuman folly into which Europe has been led.

At this time the pacifist has a duty to humanity and a duty to his country.

To humanity he owes it to watch unceasingly for the first reasonable chance that may come to press upon the statesmen and peoples of the belligerent nations the acceptance of the mediation offered by the one great power not engaged in the struggle—the American Republic.

To his country he owes, as a citizen, duties which must not be shirked. Every support must be given to all national and local efforts to make provision for the many hundreds and thousands of wounded, to provide immediate help for those who were dependent upon the dead, and to arrange for employment and aid for those brought to destitution by the rise in the cost of food and the spread of unemployment.

Every man and woman in the land is brought into the common trouble which war entails. It is the duty of all to give what help lies in their power to lessen the misery which inevitably must come.

War is a struggle of violence between States. We

are not at war with individuals. We pacifists who have striven for years to promote Anglo-German understanding and international concord know how profoundly our efforts have been responded to by individual men and women of all lands. We appeal to all men and women of good will to show respect for and sympathy with the unfortunate subjects of Germany and Austria stranded in our midst; and this not merely because our own compatriots are in similar plight throughout Europe, but from higher motives of self-respect and an intelligent and generous humanity.

Finally, pacifists have a most solemn duty to perform in promoting by every means in their power a spirit of national self-restraint and those more generous and humane sentiments so easily swamped by the cruel facts of war. For unless this be faithfully realized we, in common with the democracies of all Europe, cannot escape the blighting influence which inevitably follows for the nations which give free rein to the spirit of ruthlessness and the lust for victory born of the barbarity of war.

CARL HEATH,
Secretary of the National Peace Council.
W. EVANS DARBY,
Secretary of the Peace Society.
F. MADDISON,
Secretary of the International Arbitration League.
J. FREDK. GREEN,
Secretary of the International Arbitration and Peace Association.

Brief Peace Notes.

... Urgent appeals are being made by the American Red Cross for speedy and generous contributions to the war victims' relief fund. A Red Cross ship has been fitted out with surgeons, nurses, and supplies, and sent to Europe to assist in caring for the men wounded in the horrible conflict. All countries will be aided impartially, although donors may designate, if they desire, the country for which they wish their contributions used. Special request is being made through the press to the churches to let their collections on the day of prayer, October 4, go to this work. Moneys may be sent to the national Red Cross headquarters in Washington, D. C., or to local Red Cross treasurers.

... It is announced by executive officials of the centenary committee that the celebration will be held as planned, in spite of the conditions in Europe. Neither the American nor the British governments have recognized the movement officially. The ceremonies will begin on Christmas Eve, the anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Ghent.

... American Minister Price and Señor Lefevre, secretary of foreign relations of Panama, signed on September 2 an important treaty between this country and Panama, giving control of the waters of the harbors of Colon and Ancon to the United States. The treaty awaits ratification by the Senates of the two countries.

... The evacuation of Vera Cruz by the United States forces was ordered by President Wilson on the 15th of September, the evacuation to be carried out as soon as